

The Urban District Council of Atherton.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ATHERTON, FEBRUARY 3RD, 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District during the year 1908.

The population, calculated to the middle of the year, is 18,900.

The net deaths occurring in, and actually belonging to the district, numbered 248, details of which will be found in Table IV, which gives the registered cause of death, and approximate age at death.

The Death Rate, equal to 13·12 per 1,000 inhabitants, is less than last year (14·66), and compares favourably with all preceding years—14·61 in 1906; 13·7 in 1905; 15·7 in 1904; 17·8 in 1903, and 18·4 as the mean of ten years, 1894 to 1903.

The Births numbered 541, of which 275 were males and 266 females. This gives a rate of 28·49 per 1,000 inhabitants, slightly higher than last year (28·01), but showing a decrease on previous years, viz:—30·8 in 1906; 30·9 in 1905; 31 in 1904; 35·9 in 1903, and a mean of 36·3 for the ten years, 1894 to 1903.

The Deaths from the seven principal Xymotic Diseases, viz:—Smallpox (0), Measles (3), Scarlet Fever (2), Whooping Cough (23), Diphtheria and Membranous Croup (4), Typhoid Fever (7), and Diarrhœa (19), amount to 58. This gives a death rate of 3·07 per 1,000 inhabitants, as compared to 2·7 last year; 2·6 in 1906; 2·7 in 1905; 3·15 in 1904; 4·13 in 1903, and a mean of 3·63 for the ten years, 1894 to 1903.



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It will be noticed that the mortality from Whooping Cough is very high, and it is amazing, in view of the repeated high death rates from this disease, with what lightheartedness it is treated by the general public. It is a disease which can be prevented, and which can also be controlled, yet the public steadfastly refuse to believe either one or the other. I would again urge upon the Council to do all in its power to obtain the compulsory notification of this disease.

The number of deaths of children under one year was 71, giving a rate of 131.23 per 1,000 children born, showing a decrease on last year (134.3); 164.02 in 1906; 141.8 in 1905; 180 in 1903, and a mean of 176 during the ten years, 1894 to 1903. Details of these deaths will be found in Table V.

The number of deaths from Tubercular Phthisis was 20, giving a rate of 1.05 per 1,000 inhabitants, as compared to 1.18 last year; 0.81 in 1906; 0.55 in 1905; 0.97 in 1904; 0.8 in 1903, and a mean of 1.10 for the ten years, 1894 to 1903.

In regard to this disease, I can only repeat the remarks I made in my last Annual Report; call your attention again to the report that I have just presented with regard to the new Tuberculosis Regulations; express the opinion which I strongly hold, that these Regulations are a step in the right direction, and hope that further steps will be taken in the near future.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified was 129, details of which will be found in Table III.

I have already reported upon the Typhoid Fever, and the other notifications call for no comment.

The number of cases sent to Hospital were 42 (Scarlet Fever 24, and Typhoid Fever 18). There were three deaths in hospital, -one of Scarlet Fever and two of Typhoid.

Save for a mild Smallpox scare at the commencement of the year, and the more serious Typhoid epidemic at the latter end, the year has been uneventful.

I should like to congratulate the Sanitary Committee upon the activity they have displayed in all matters tending towards the improved sanitation of the town. I have to thank the Clerk for much help and many acts of kindness, and I have also to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his great assistance to me throughout the year; as also, the Surveyor. The willingness with which these three gentlemen have given their assistance makes me feel doubly grateful

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JAMES MARSH, M.B., C.M.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE C.

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1908.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ATHERTON.

Area in Statute Acres—2,269.

Population (Census) 1901—16,211

Population (Estimated) 1908—18,900.

Name of Medical Officer of Health—JAMES MARSH.

Births registered—Male, 275 ; Female, 266 ; total, 541.

Deaths registered (net deaths belonging to the district)—Male, 135 ; Female, 113 ; total, 248.

Birth rate—28·49.

Death rate—13·12.

Rate of Infant Deaths, under one year, to 1,000 Births—131·23.

Death Rate from the seven principal epidemic Diseases per 1,000 of population—3·07.

Diseases prevalent—Scarlet, Typhoid, Perhissis.

Period—Throughout the year.

What action taken?—Isolation, Disinfection, etc.

Any Schools closed?—No.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation ? For Smallpox—Isolation Hospital at Astley. For other Infectious Diseases—Isolation Hospital at Astley. Is it Joint or otherwise?—Joint. Number of Beds available for your District ? For Small-pox—Varies ; first come, first served. For other Infectious Diseases—Varies ; first come, first served. Number of cases removed from your District?—Small-pox, 1 ; Diphtheria, nil ; Scarlet Fever, 24 ; Enteric Fever, 18 ; total, 43. Deaths in Hospital of patients from your District ? (From what causes?)—Enteric, 2 ; Scarlet, 1.

How is Disinfection carried out ? Houses—Fumigation and Formalin ; Clothing, Bedding &c.—Disinfecting, Boiling, &c. ; Apparatus used—Mason's ; Where situated—Gasworks.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease reported under the Notification Act--129. Are any Diseases not specially mentioned in the Act notifiable (for instance, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa, Chicken Pox, &c.) ? If so, what are they?—No. Has any arrangement been made for the "voluntary" notification of Phthisis?—Yes ; without any result.

Is Diphtheritic Anti-Toxin supplied to Medical Practitioners free of charge?—No.

Action taken under “The Housing of the Working Classes Acts.” Number of Houses condemned?—16; Closed?—6; Demolished?—Nil; Made habitable?—5.

From where is the Water Supply obtained? What is its condition? Is it subject to your inspection?—Bolton and Manchester. Plentiful; but for the last few months of doubtful quality. Not at its source.

Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily?—Yes. How performed:—By Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses?—By Sanitary Authority.

How is the Refuse disposed of?—Tips, Land, Destructor. Has a Destructor been provided?—Yes.

What is the character of Drainage and the form of Sewage Disposal?—Joint with Leigh.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses?—Satisfactory; Slaughter Houses—Satisfactory; Lodging Houses—(none). Has a Public Abattoir been provided?—No.

What is the sanitary condition of the Schools?—Good.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops:—Are they periodically inspected?—Yes; What is their condition?—Fairly satisfactory; Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.?—Yes; Are they enforced?—Yes; Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow?—600 cubic feet.

Food unfit for Human Consumption: Amount seized—None.

Department of Inspector of Nuisances.—Number of Notices served—92; Nuisances remedied—609; Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result—None.

Closet accommodation of the District.—Number of Privy Middens?—417; Pail Closets—8; Fresh Water Closets—510; Waste Water Closets—1,540; Number of Privy Middens converted during 1908:—To W.C's—143; to Pails, &c.—none.

Smoke.—Number of Observations—6; Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result—None; What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour—Fifteen minutes in the hour.

Has the Authority adopted—“The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890”?—Yes; “The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890”?—Yes; “The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907”?—Yes; “The Notification of Births Act, 1907”?—Yes.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1908.—Fixing of a time limit for emission of Black Smoke.

Chief Sanitary requirements of District.—Houses.

TABLE I.

Name of District—ATHERTON URBAN.—(For whole District).

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES.	
		Num-ber.	Rate [⊙]	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Num-ber.	Rate [⊙]
				Num-ber.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered	Num-ber.	Rate [⊙]					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898
1899
1900
1901
1902
1903
1904
1905
1906
1907
Averages for years 1898-1907.
1908	18,900	541	28.49	71	131.23	324	17.14	93	79	3	248	13.12

⊗ Rates in columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2,269. Total population at all ages, 18,900.

Number of inhabited houses, 3,620. Average number of persons per house, 4.1.

(At Census of 1901).

TABLE II.

Name of District—ATHERTON URBAN.

YEAR.	WHOLE DISTRICT.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1908 ...	18,900	541	248	71

TABLE III.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.**Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the year 1908.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Patients removed from this District.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards		
Smallpox	1							...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup	20							...	...
Erysipelas	20							...	...
Scarlet Fever	43							24	1
Enteric Fever... ..	44							18	2
Puerperal Fever ...	1							...	...
Totals	129							42	3

Isolation Hospital—ASTLEY.

TABLE IV.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.**Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or "Non- Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Measles	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	23	8	15	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	4	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	7	...	...	1	2	4	...	1
Diarrhœa	19	16	3	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	20	...	...	1	10	9	...	12
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	10	3	3	1	2	1	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	7	...	...	...	...	5	2	4
Bronchitis	12	3	1	...	...	7	1	11
Pneumonia	16	1	2	2	...	7	4	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	13	6	3	1	...	2	1	3
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Premature Birth	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	22	...	1	...	4	10	7	8
Accidents	4	...	...	1	1	1	1	6
All other causes	67	16	6	2	...	23	20	46
All causes	248	71	41	11	19	70	36	93

TABLE V.

Name of District—ATHERTON URBAN.
Infantile Mortality During the Year 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	Certified ...	...	...	12	5	2	3	22	6	6	5	4	5	4	4	4	5	2	4	71
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Infectious Diseases—																				
Small-pox ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...				...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	8
Diarrhoeal Diseases—																				
Diarrhoea, all forms ...				...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	2	1	3	2	2	...	1	16
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ...				...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...				...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wasting Diseases—																				
Premature Birth ...				9	1	...	2	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Coagenital Defects ...				2	1	1	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Injury at Birth ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Diseases—																				
Tuberculous Meningitis..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	3
Other Causes—																				
Erysipelas ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2
Convulsions ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...				...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Laryngitis ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suffocation, overlaying				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes ...				1	3	1	...	5	2	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	15
				12	5	2	3	22	6	6	5	4	5	4	4	4	5	2	4	71

Population, estimated to middle of 1908, 18,900.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages,

The Urban District Council of Atherton.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ATHERTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration, my Report of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the year ending December 31st, 1908.

During the year, 13 samples of milk were purchased and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst,—12 of the samples were stated to be genuine; one sample was stated to contain the parts as under:—

3·28% of Fat.
7·65% of other Solids.
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10·93% total Solids.

The Analyst was of opinion that 10% of water had been added to 90% of the original milk. I was instructed to obtain a further sample; this was done, and the sample stated to be genuine.

Four samples of water were obtained and submitted for chemical analysis. Three samples of water were submitted to Professor Delepine, and two samples of water were submitted to Sir Robert Boyce, for bacteriological examination.

There are 23 Bakehouses on the register, all of which are visited and periodically lime-washed.

There are 75 Work-shops on the register, all of which have to be visited, under the provisions of the Factory and Work-shops Acts.

There are 15 Slaughter-houses—two of them are registered, and thirteen are licensed annually. All of them are regularly visited and the meat examined. They are kept in good order, and are periodically lime-washed.

There are 21 Farms and Cowsheds in the district, all of which are visited and inspected. They are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition, and precautions are taken to keep the milk supply in a clean and wholesome condition.

There were seven observations of the emission of black smoke from the chimneys of mills, etc.—L. & N.W. Railway, Lee Spinning Company, Ltd. (2), Atherton Spinning Company, Ltd. (2), Howe Bridge Spinning Co., Ltd. (2).

NUMBER OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR.

Defective Slop-stone Pipes ...	35	Defective Walls at the back of	
„ Gullies	103	slop-stones	43
„ Pavements round Gullies	81	„ Ventilating Shaft ...	1
„ Rainwater Pipes and		„ Manure receptacles and	
Spouting	26	accumulations	10
„ Rainwater pipes connec-		Overcrowding	3
ted to drains and		Keeping fowls in back-yards ...	7
disconnected	74	Accumulations in back-yards and	
„ Roofs	16	streets	12
„ Flushing apparatus to		Dirty and insanitary back-yards...	34
W.C.	13	Dirty Houses Cleansed and Lime-	
„ W.C. Basins	2	washed	72
„ Closet Pails	3	Water in Cellars	4
„ Ashpit Doors	9	Blocked Drains and Gullies ...	37
„ Pavement in back-yards	22	Closets without doors	2
		<hr/>	
		609	

In addition, 31 back-yards and 2 common yards have been paved.

Water-closets provided in lieu of insanitary privy-middens:—Water-closets, 143; Privy-middens abolished, 78; Ashpit floors raised and cemented, 67; Pails in lieu of Ashpits, 29. It is interesting to note that no slop-water closets were provided in the conversions during the year.

The whole of the drains at 102 houses have been relaid, and new channels and gullies provided; and 38 new channels and gullies at other premises.

Number of Pails emptied	6,500
Number of Dry Ashpits emptied ...	5,458

2,293 loads of refuse to Destructor, weighing 3,007 tons—an increase over last year of 218 loads, weighing 284 tons.

Number of Privy-middens emptied	2,960
To Tips on Farms	2,583 loads
Incombustible Material to Tips	187 „

There were also destroyed at the Destructor:—

Dogs received from the Police Station ...	23
„ from other sources	17
Pigs	2
Donkey	1
Badger	1
	<hr/>
	44

NUMBER OF ROOMS DISINFECTED AFTER CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Rooms.	Beds.	Mattresses.	Bolsters, Pillows, Clothing.	Beds, &c., Destroyed.
Scarlet Fever	50	42	58	71	1
Typhoid Fever	44	34	...	78	4
Diphtheria	14	...	...	...	...
Membranous Croup ...	3	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	4	...	...	27	1 bed, 3 pillows
Puerperal Fever	1	1	...	3	...
Phthisis	38	12	...	112	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	154	89	58	291	32
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths (various causes):—6 rooms, 6 beds, 19 mattresses, &c., destroyed.
 Dirty and Insanitary Houses:—21 rooms, 4 beds destroyed.

Schoolrooms:—Floors sprayed and rooms Fumigated	78
Visits to Schools <i>re</i> Infectious Diseases "	23
Other cases of Sickness from Schools visited	51
Living Vans Inspected	19
Books Disinfected and returned to Library	2

Posters and Handbills distributed—Epidemic Diarrhœa.

Do.	Water Supply.
Do.	Mussels.

In addition, a letter was sent to all the Butchers, Bakers, Confectioners, and Chip Potato Shops *re* Ptomaine Poisoning.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

KAY JEPSON, A.R.S.I.,

Certified Inspector of Meat and Foods.

February 4th, 1909.

